

REMARKS

Claim 24 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer, U.S. patent 5,831,763, in view of Carter et al., U.S. patent 4,608,344 or Herron et al., U.S. patent 5,677,196 and Hause, U.S. patent 4,159,875, Staunton, U.S. patent 3,705,048 or Sillmanr, U.S. patent publication US 2003/0203492. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer, U.S. patent 5,831,763, in view of Carter, U.S. patent 4,608,344 or Herron, U.S. patent 5,677,196 and Hause, U.S. patent 4,159,875, Staunton, U.S. patent 3,7-5,048 or Sillmanr, U.S. patent publication US 2003/0203492, and further in view of Kurtz, U.S. patent 5,671,084. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer, U.S. patent 5,831,763, in view of Carter, U.S. patent 4,608,344 or Herron, U.S. patent 5,677,196 and Hause, U.S. patent 4,159,875, Staunton, U.S. patent 3,7-5,048 or Sillmanr, U.S. patent publication US2003/0203492, and further in view of Gerrans, U.S. patent 4,977,725.

The specification is objected to because the status of the parent application needs to be updated; and due to the improper use of the trademark VELCRO.

The specification has been amended to accommodate the Examiner's objections. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 and 23-24 have been amended to more clearly state the invention. Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claim 23, as amended, is believed to accommodate the Examiner's objection to the improper use of the trademark VELCRO. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 23 is respectfully requested.

Indicated allowable claim 24 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Dependent claims 20-23, as amended, respectively depend for patentable independent claim 24. Each of the dependent claims 20-23, as amended, is likewise patentable.

Applicants have reviewed all the art of record, and respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable over all the art of record, including the references not relied upon by the Examiner for the rejection of the pending claims.

It is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance and allowance of each of the pending claims 20-24, as amended, is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner upon considering this amendment should find that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

S-signature by

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